

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 2 and 11, and amend claim 1.

In response to the Advisory Action of February 23, 2004, and the Examiner Interview of March 10, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the prior art rejections for the following reasons.

First, Applicants amend claim 1 to recite the relation of the individual components with respect to each other. During the March 10 interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 1 appears to be indefinite because it does not recite necessary structure. In order to prevent any indefiniteness rejections, Applicants amend claim 1 to clarify the relative placement of the layers as recited in previous claim 11. Applicants note that these amendments to claim 1 do not exclude the case where a layer or something optically ineffective, e.g., an adhesive layer, is interposed between the quarter-wave plate and the optical rotatory layer.

With regard to the prior art rejections, Applicants maintain that one would not have been motivated to combine the references as alleged in the Final Rejection. In particular, one would not have known to modify Kishimoto to have an optical rotator of Itoh.

Moreover, Applicants submit there is no motivation for providing the rotatory layer in the *particular location* of the present invention, i.e., next to the quarter-wave plate.

One could place the rotatory layer next to the cholesteric layer in Kishimoto to “rotate a polarization plane of linearly polarized light.” In other words, the rotatory layer could be placed in a location different than the present invention (e.g., next to the cholesteric LCD), based on the

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alleged motivation of Itoh to rotate a polarization plane of linearly polarized light. In other words, one would not have been motivated to place the rotatory layer adjacent to the quarter-wave plate because the function of the rotatory layer in Itoh could be achieved if it were next to the cholesteric LCD.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. The remaining claims depend from claim 1, and therefore, patentable by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

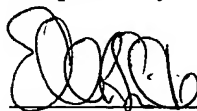
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Respectfully submitted,



Ellen R. Smith
Registration No. 43,042

Attorney Docket No.: Q68205